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BY THE SENATE,

MARCH 13, 1874.

Read, and 500 copies ordered to be printed.

By order,

AUGUSTUS GASSAWAY,

Secretary.

R E P O R T

OF THE

JOINT SPECIAL COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO VISIT AND INSPECT THE

HOUSE OF REFORMATION

AND INSTRUCTION

FOR

COLORED CHILDREN

IN

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.

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1874.



REPORT.

To the Honorable,

The General Assembly of Maryland :

The Joint Special Committee, appointed by your Honorable Body to visit and inspect the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children, in Prince George's county, beg leave to report, that they have executed the trust committed to them, and respectfully submit herewith the result of their investigations.

Your Committee, together with President Cox and several other members of the Board of Managers, were received at Tallot's Station, on the Baltimore and Potomac Rail Road, by the Superintendent, General Horn, and readily conveyed to the Institution, distant about three-quarters of a mile.

We were first directed through a family building, and carefully examined its several apartments, consisting of officers' rooms, a large school-room, two dormitories, a play-room, store-room, clothes-room, and four rooms for solitary confinement. Desks, bedding, school apparatus and other furniture were being placed in this building, preparatory to its immediate occupancy, and your Committee are pleased to say, that the several apartments seemed admirably adapted to their purposes, were well ventilated, and possessed of all necessary appliances for convenience and comfort.

This building, as also the furniture and appurtenances, are plain and substantial, with no unnecessary or lavish expenditure apparent, and altogether looking to the great desiderata of health, comfort, discipline, and all needful sanitary, corrective and reformatory appliances.

Your Committee would here represent that this is the only family building erected or contracted for, that is constructed for the accommodation of fifty boys, and that already the

number resident at the Institution is greatly larger than can be cared for, disciplined and improved according to the well-matured and very feasible plans of the worthy Superintendent and officers in charge. And that it is thus manifest to your Committee that another family building is now pressingy needed, and that from the rapid increase of the inmates since the first member was admitted, now less than a year ago, that other similar buildings will be required in the very near future.

Your Committee also, as full as their limited time would admit, examined the main or central building. In this are the general dining-room, kitchen, store-rooms, laundry, drying-room and bakery, Superintendent's residence, office, reception-room, serving and officers' room and chapel. The several apartments of this building inspected by us were found scrupulously neat and cleanly, and eminently adapted to their several designated purposes. The kitchen, with its culinary apparatus and general dining-room, situated in the central building, are especially worthy of note as admirably arranged and sufficiently commodious to meet all probable requirements when several other family buildings under the "family plan" shall be in successful operation.

Time would not permit your Committee to fully survey the large tract of land, the old mansion and other buildings, valued at nearly twenty-three thousand dollars, the generous contributions of Enoch Pratt, Esq., of Baltimore; but from the appearance and character of the soil, so far as examined, it seems eminently adapted to the growth of the cereals, vegetables and all kinds of fruits and berries, by the cultivation of which, when the necessary family buildings are had, and such team and farming utensils supplied as may be needed, will probably, at no distant day, render the Institution self-sustaining.

Your Committee further examined the gas-works for supplying all the buildings with gas, and also several fine springs situated near the buildings, from which a plentiful supply of pure and wholesome water is had at all seasons of the year, which water, by means of a hydraulic ram, is being continuously carried to the upper rooms of the central building.

Your Committee deem it appropriate to say that the boys

were all neatly and comfortably clad, and seemed contented and happy in their out-door prison life, whilst we would make especial mention of the respect and consideration which they readily show towards all visitors and superiors, and that this is strongly inculcated upon them by the very worthy and efficient Superintendent.

Your Committee, in conclusion, would respectfully submit, that in their judgment the incorporation of this Institution was a most wise State policy, the economy of which will be more and more manifest, as our almshouses, jails and penitentiaries become depleted of its non-producing class of prisoners, convicted of minor offences, and all such placed in this Institution, where they will be trained to all kind of useful work, and where their hours of useful labor will be alternated with hours of instruction and study in school, and thus be made useful to the agriculturist and mechanic, and to the State, as good and law-abiding citizens.

Your Committee, finally, in recommending as they now do, a liberal appropriation by the State, to enable the Institution to prosecute fully and successfully the work so auspiciously begun, will take occasion to say, that the taking of little boys guilty of petty offences against the law, who know not the laws of the land, nor the laws of God, and instructing them in the ways of rectitude, and to make of them useful citizens, is a work which should commend itself to the favorable consideration of every man of the State, and to the sympathies and admiration of mankind.

GEORGE D. MUDD,

J. K. LONGWELL,

Committee on the part of the Senate.

L. A. ETCHISON,

D. MARSH MATTHEWS,

ALONZO BERRY,

CHAS. J. McALEESE,

Committee on the part of the House.





